

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/683,701

Examiner

Vincent P. Barth

Applicant(s)

KOBAYASHI, SHIGETAKA

Art Unit

2877

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment dated 20 Apr. 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 05 February 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Preliminary Comments

1. Applicant's Amendments dated 20 April 2004 have placed the Application in a condition for allowance as written. Accordingly, the following represents a reasoned statement for allowability.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-8 are allowable, since the prior art references, either considered alone or in combination, do not disclose or render obvious the limitations set forth therein.
3. Referring to Claim 1, the prior art references, either considered alone or in combination, do not disclose or render obvious the limitations whereby a device for inspecting a display panel comprises a light source and a dimmer plate which modulates the light transmission according to the intensity of the incident light, and wherein the light is transmitted through the dimmer plate, in combination with the remaining limitations in the claim. Claims 2-4 are allowable based on their dependency upon the claim from which each is dependent. Referring to Claim 5, the prior art references, either considered alone or in combination, do not disclose or render obvious the limitations whereby a method for inspecting a display panel comprises disposing the panel on a support, emitting light from a light source, receiving the light and controlling the transmitted light in accordance with the intensity of the incident light, said transmitted light having a controlled quantity, in combination with the remaining limitations in the claim. Claims 6-8 are allowable based on their dependency upon the claim from which each is dependent.

Comments

4. Applicant has amended Claim 2 as suggested by the Examiner in the previous Office Action, thus removing the indefiniteness. Accordingly, the rejection of Claim 2 pursuant to §112 is withdrawn.
5. Applicant's Remarks dated 20 April 2004 indicated that amended drawings were attached in the facsimile transmission to include larger figure numbers, as suggested in the previous Office Action. However, said facsimile contained 8 of 8 pages, but without drawings. The attached Notice of Allowability has indicated that the original drawings were acceptable as filed. Nevertheless, Applicant should still submit amended drawings, as was clearly Applicant's intent.

CONCLUSION

6. Applicants' Claims 1-8 are allowed based on the reasons set forth above.
7. Any inquiries concerning this communication from the Examiner should be directed to Vincent P. Barth, whose telephone number is 571-272-2410, and who may be ordinarily reached from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The official fax number for communications to the group is 703-872-9306.
8. If attempts to reach the Examiner prove unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor is Frank G. Font, who may be reached at 571-272-2415.
9. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1782.


Richard A. Rosenberger
Primary Examiner